

§103 Rejection

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-29 and 31-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 2002/003095 to Jaeb et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Jaeb discloses a security storage container 10 that includes a first security member (i.e. a base 12) and a second security member (i.e. a lid 14). A lock slide 18 is configured to lock the lid 14 in the closed position. With reference to Figures 9-14, Jaeb disclosed a configuration for moving the locking slide 18 between locked and unlocked positions. The slide 18 includes a locking channel 70 that receives a locking member 72 when the slide 18 is in the locked position (see Figs. 13 and 14 of Jaeb). The locking member 72 is secured to the base 12 at a first end and has a second end resiliently biased toward the locking channel 70 so that the second end automatically moves into locking channel 70 when slide 18 is in the locked position. One end of the locking channel 70 provides a shoulder surface against which the second end of locking member 72 engages when positioned in the locking channel 70.

Jaeb fails to disclose or suggest "the stop member is arranged on the second security member," as required by claim 1, or "a second security member including a stop member," as required by claim 23. The stop feature disclosed by Jaeb is a shoulder feature of the locking channel in the locking slide 18. The locking slide 18 is mounted to the first security member (i.e. the base 12). Jaeb fails to disclose or suggest providing a stop feature on the second security member (i.e. the lid 14) wherein the stop feature is engaged by the locking member 72. Therefore, Jaeb fails to disclose or suggest every limitation of claims 1 and 23 and the claims that depend from them.

Jaeb fails to disclose or suggest rearranging the various features of the locking aspects of the Jaeb device as suggested is possible in the Examiner's Response to Arguments. Merely rearranging the stop member and spring blade features in the Jaeb reference does not result in the stop member being positioned on the lid 14. Therefore, mere reversal of the Jaeb features also fails to meet every limitation of claims 1 and 23.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If a phone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues related to this matter, please contact Applicants' attorney listed below at (612) 371-5387.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 19, 2007

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